

REMARKS

A new Declaration setting forth the correct priority date is enclosed.

The reference to related applications has been updated.

Main claim 38 recites the step of "inscribing the gemstones" and forming "cavities in the gemstones", "the cavities in the gemstones constituting the marking patterns". See cavities 34, 36 in Figs. 3B and 3C. No applied reference discloses inscribing gemstones by forming cavities therein.

Of the three references used to reject claim 38, the only one that marks gems is European Patent No. 0897021, and that marking is achieved not by forming cavities in the gems, but by vapor deposition on the surfaces of the gems. The other two references, Langan and Yueh, do not relate to gemstone marking, nor do the secondary references, Brown and Raynes.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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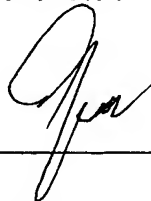
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